

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE 56TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM OF THE PENN- SYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 754, a resolution honoring the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on its return to the United States from deployment in Iraq.

The 56th Stryker Brigade is composed of approximately 4,000 citizen-soldiers from throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These servicemembers come from various communities, including several communities in the 6th Congressional District.

The Brigade has previously served our country honorably, mobilizing and deploying to Kosovo in 2003. On September 19, 2008 the 56th Stryker Brigade was mobilized a second time, deploying to Iraq on January 15, 2009. The Brigade arrived in Iraq in late January 2009 and accepted responsibility of a roughly 800-square-mile area north of Baghdad from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

During their deployment in Iraq, the 56th Striker Brigade played a critical role in support of military operations in Iraq. Brigade Soldiers performed over 800 combined operations with Iraq security forces, capturing seven brigade level high value targets and 80 additional targets, including the capture of more than 80 enemy weapon caches.

The Soldiers of the Independence Brigade served side by side with Iraqi soldiers to ensure security. The 56th Stryker Brigade is credited with making \$22 million worth of reconstruction improvements in coordination with an embedded U.S. provincial reconstruction team. Following their one year of exceptional service, the Brigade returned to the United States and demobilized in September 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the brave men and women of the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. May their service be an inspiration to us all.

### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has been faithfully

serving the community of Tuscarawas County since 1966; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has participated in "Character Counts! Week," a character building program meant to instill essential character values in children from October 18–24, 2009; and

Whereas, the "Character Counts!" program promotes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship in young people; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community on their commitment to citizenship and respect for themselves and one another. I also commend those involved in the program for their dedication to the youth of our community and preparing them for lives of thoughtfulness, respect, and civic responsibility.

### THE PINEY WOODS SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. GREGG HARPER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, one hundred years ago deep in the Mississippi woods, Dr. Laurence Jones agreed to teach a half-grown, barefoot boy to read. The next day, the young boy not only arrived eagerly for his second lesson, but was accompanied by two of his friends. Dr. Jones welcomed the newcomers and began the lesson by singing the well known doxology, Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow. Thus, The Piney Woods School legacy was born.

Dr. Laurence Jones did not stop simply with teaching a few boys while using a fallen log for a desk, but he also eventually built a modest facility in rural Rankin County, Mississippi to provide underprivileged black students with a "head, heart and hands" education.

News of the developing black school angered many local Ku Klux Klan members. After capturing Dr. Jones and forcing him to give a final speech, the members of the Klan released "The Little Professor" after he expressively compelled them by stating, "There is not a man standing here who wants to go to his God with the blood of an innocent man on his hands."

Founded in 1909 in a corn shed and, today The Piney Woods School is a nondenominational, Christian-oriented school that has grown into what U.S. News & World Report has named one of the finest boarding schools in the country. As the flagship of the four remaining historically African-American boarding schools in the United States, The Piney Woods School provides an academic core of mathematics, history, science, English and social studies to black high school students on a campus covering 2,000 acres. The beautiful

Rankin County campus is comprised of lakes, farmland and towering pine trees, which creates an educational experience far beyond the classroom.

Comprised of nearly 230 students in grades 9 through 12 from over 20 states, Mexico, the Caribbean and several African nations, all of the students attend on a scholarship, and at all times at least 60% of the student body come from a low socio-economic background. Additionally, to help defray the cost of tuition, each student is responsible for working 10 hours a week.

The Piney Woods School has continued to rely on individual, foundation and corporate support for funding in addition to assistance from religious institutions. Building on the basis of this support, the school has established a goal of at least 1,000 churches, synagogues and other religious institutions contributing \$1,000 a year. Among prominent figures that have advocated for the school over the years, are actor Morgan Freeman, television personality Oprah Winfrey, author Bebe Moore Campbell and famed American cartoonist, the late Charles Schultz.

On behalf of this body, I would like to congratulate The Piney Woods School as they celebrate one hundred years of "changing America, and the world, one student at a time." Britton Smith, a young African American intern who serves today in my Washington office and who is a graduate of Piney Woods, is a genuine example that the legacy of Dr. Jones and his wife, Grace, still pulsates through the campus, attracting Christian students eager for an opportunity to grow and to be successful.

### CONGRATULATING RICHARD L. BOALS FOR RECEIVING THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE'S TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Richard L. Boals, who has been selected to receive the Anti-Defamation League's Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award. The ADL is a national nonprofit organization committed to combating all forms of prejudice and discrimination, as well as defending democratic ideals and protecting civil liberties for all. The Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award recognizes outstanding leaders who have demonstrated a serious commitment to the social, economic, cultural, and environmental well-being of their communities.

Mr. Boals is an exceptional community leader who epitomizes the ideals of the Torch of Liberty Award. As president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Mr. Boals is in charge of the state's leading health insurer. His long history of service to his community includes serving on the

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